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Notes  
on  
the  
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and  
History  
of  
the  
"Ark"



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NOTES ON THE  
ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF  
*THE “ARK”*

BY ECKSTEIN CASE  
PAST FELLOW OF THE ROWFANT CLUB

CLEVELAND  
PRINTED FOR THE ROWFANT CLUB

1902

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## Notes on the Origin and History of the “Ark”

An association of local interest which experienced a long and honorable existence has recently passed away, and naturally there arises a curiosity concerning its origin, its objects, its abiding-place, its membership, and other phases pertaining to bodies of its kind. Usually the task of making clear the history of such an institution is materially aided by the records in the archives of the institution itself. Therefore, in attempting a sketch of the “Ark,” one is discouraged at the outset by the fact that it possessed neither archives nor systematic records of any kind which might have been consulted. With the exception of one or two newspaper articles, a few traditions, and yet fewer incidents related personally, there is, so far as I am aware, nothing extant from which a history of the club may be gleaned. It came

into being without formal organization; it adopted neither by-laws, rules, nor regulations. It had, however, a few peculiar customs, some of which will be mentioned later. Even its membership seems to have grown by affinity rather than by election or selection, and to be called an "Arkite" gave, in the estimation of the one so honored, the right to consider himself as one set apart. Such exclusiveness naturally bred a curiosity in the uninitiated, which in turn brought the indifference and reticence which the "Arkites" doubtless soon learned was the most efficient way to enhance their importance. The club's influence, however, upon the welfare of the city was of inestimable value, and it is a matter of much regret that its complete history was not written by some one of its members. It would be of interest indeed if some one of the many capable men belonging to the club had related in detail the incentives which inspired to higher ideals, as well as the wit and humor with which conversation and argument were doubtless spiced. To Rowfanter particularly would such an history have been of the deepest interest, for without much exaggeration it may be said that the Rowfant Club is the child of the

"Ark." Although the conception and birth of the former did take place elsewhere, the swaddling clothes of interest and affection were wrapped around the infant, so to speak, upon almost the same spot where the mother came into existence. The child has grown and made a permanent home for itself elsewhere, but the spirit and covenant of the "Ark" and its environment abide with it still.

In 1821 the elder Leonard Case, then cashier of the old Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, and S. W. Phelps of Painesville became involved in a controversy as to which should become the possessor of Original Two-Acre Lot Number 63 of Cleveland. Each desired the other to own it. In 1817 Phelps had sold the lot on contract for about two hundred and fifty dollars to one Henry Prather of Wellsburgh, Virginia, who made but a small cash payment. Prather erected a ropewalk upon the premises, but the business did not prosper, and Prather walked away, leaving his creditors to disentangle the ropes of his affairs.

Phelps had borrowed one hundred dollars of the bank, leaving Prather's contract for collection and security. As nothing was paid on the contract,

Phelps's loan, in consequence, remained unpaid and the bank directors decided that he must be sued. Mr. Case says in his memoirs:

"I went down to Painesville, and Phelps (a brother lawyer) and myself sat down on a stump and condoled with each other. It was a case of conscience. Phelps insisted on my taking the contract and paying the note and balance to him. I could not raise the means, but agreed to pay the debt to the bank and own a proportion, and we would close the contract and sell to the best advantage. We proceeded, and I obtained a decree to be closed in one year. The decree was for \$266.50, dated July 6, 1821. In 1819 Dr. Long, Levi Johnson, A. W. Walworth, and others having judgments, had sold Prather's traps on execution, and also the equitable interest in the land, as was common in those times, although illegal. When I got the contract from Phelps I offered it at the face value to Long, Walworth, Johnson, and the others. Walworth had money at command; so had Johnson. Long was rather flush. All with one accord refused the offer, and I informed them they must not disturb the ropewalk nor anything that

was real estate; so we had an arbitration on the lot. Horace Perry was umpire and marked out the distinctions. They removed their share, but before I got possession the wind blew down the ropewalk. When the decree was out in 1822 we were a little easier, and Phelps proposed releasing all to me, and I accepted, thereby making my best bargain in land because I could not get rid of it. I paid up Phelps and took a deed, and paid \$266.50 and interest from July 6, 1821, for the Two-Acre Lot and the remains of the ropewalk, out of which I built a woodshed, barn, and some eighty rods of fencing boards."

I have dwelt somewhat at length on this transaction, as I have deemed it of interest from the fact that this lot is the Ararat upon which our "Ark" was first to come to rest.

In 1826 Mr. Case finished building a residence on the southerly end of the lot, and to it he afterwards made additions as necessity required. Some time previous to 1836 he built an unpretentious one-story frame building containing two rooms on what is now the southeast corner of Rockwell Street and the Public Square, diagonally across from the site of

the present Chamber of Commerce Building. Each room had a door and window in the side facing the Public Square, and each had a window in the rear. A door furnished entrance to the northerly room from the yard. The chimney was in the center, and in the southerly room there was a brick fireplace, over which was a rough mantel shelf. A door on the westerly side of the chimney led from one room into the other. This southerly room was intended and used as the old gentleman's office. The other was used as a tool-room and for general storage. At the northerly end of the building a "lean-to" was afterwards built and used as wood and coal shed. The furniture of the office consisted of a number of rough splint-bottom chairs, a large round table, the open fireplace above mentioned with its andirons, shovel and tongs, a couch, and a bookcase. A few pictures adorned the walls, and on the mantel shelf were several bottles doing duty as candlesticks. The drawers were filled with the tools and materials used in taxidermy and for repairing and cleaning guns.

Lameness and failing health compelled the elder Case to call his older son William to his assistance



in looking after his business affairs and real estate holdings, and from that time the office was practically abandoned to the use of the boys. Perhaps the old gentleman shrewdly deemed it much more economical to furnish a "loafing-place," so-called, for his boys than to spend time and possibly money in hunting for them elsewhere.

In December, 1838, in a letter to his younger brother, Leonard, then at Yale College, William writes: "Now I hold my bones in the office as usual. Fred and myself have had a kind of chemical laboratory in the office, and have had several magnificent blow-ups—almost blown out of the house." In July, 1839, Leonard writes and asks a significant question: "Does the office continue to be headquarters for loafers, as usual, or is it getting to be too notorious?" This is the first intimation that the building was used as a meeting-place for the unemployed. The correspondence between the brothers makes no further mention of the office except that William writes in August, 1841: "I have a live rattlesnake to show for the amusement of the girls, who begin to think the old office a curiosity-shop"; but the affection with which its frequenters

regarded the place is quaintly expressed in the following extract from a letter by Elisha S. Sterling, dated September 8, 1849, in Paris, where he was then pursuing his medical studies. He writes: "I am glad to hear the city is going ahead, as it is the finest place in existence. I have no desire to live in any other, and only ask to get back again within scent of the old 'Ark'—the greatest place, you know, in those diggings—and be again surrounded by the best of fellows. How often I think or dream that I am within its dusty walls engaged in or witnessing the excitement that always prevails. It is every day and night, but as often am I disappointed. The effect is a sort of devilish homesickness." The state of mind of the young man may easily be imagined, for Paris was then farther away, in point of time, than it is now.

A sketch of the "Ark" would not be complete, nor would the incentives and motives which gave it character be comprehended and appreciated, without a knowledge of Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland, who during a long life of eighty-four years gave himself to his fellowmen with an enthusiasm seldom equalled and with a prodigality which only a lover of nature is capable of bestowing.

The following brief account of the life of Dr. Kirtland I have drawn from a biographical sketch written by Prof. John S. Newberry, and read before the National Academy of Sciences, and kindly loaned me by Dr. H. K. Cushing.

Dr. Kirtland, born in Wallingford, Connecticut, November 10, 1793, was the son of Turhand and Mary Potter Kirtland, and the grandson of Dr. Jared Potter, an eminent physician of Wallingford, for whom he was named and by whom he was adopted and imbued with the love of study. From 1807 to 1810 he pursued his studies in the Wallingford and Cheshire Academies, and by his proficiency in the classics and mathematics early gave evidence of a mind of the highest order. His taste and fondness for natural science developed while yet a youth, and clung to him to the end of his life. While managing, with the co-operation of his cousins, an extensive plantation of the white mulberry for the cultivation of the silk-worm, he made the discovery that the female silk-moth, secluded from the male, could produce fertile eggs. This discovery was doubted until confirmed fifty years later by two eminent European scientists, Siebold

and Steen, and *partheno-genesis* in insects became an established fact. His father, Judge Turhand Kirtland, was a large stockholder in the Connecticut Land Company, and in 1797 was appointed its first general agent. In 1803 the Judge, with all of his family excepting the son Jared, moved to Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio. In 1810, the father's health failing, Jared made the journey to Ohio on horseback, and here he remained for a year or two assisting his father, teaching school, and enthusiastically pursuing his study of nature in a field where there was ample scope for observing her in new and varied phases.

His grandfather, Dr. Potter, died in 1811 and bequeathed him his medical library, together with money sufficient to enable him to attend medical lectures in Edinburgh, Scotland. Returning to Wallingford with this purpose in view, he began his medical studies with Dr. John Andrews, continuing them later with Dr. Sylvester Wells of Hartford. The war with England in 1812-13 prevented his entering the medical school of Edinburgh, and the Medical Department at Yale College having just been established, he matriculated with the first class.

He graduated there in 1815, after having spent some months in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania where his active mind found opportunities for enriching itself in many fields outside of his profession.

He remained at Wallingford for two years and a half, practicing his profession and devoting every moment of his leisure to the further pursuit of natural science. In 1818 he again came to Ohio with the intention of settling here, and returned to Wallingford with that aim in view, but was induced to remain in Windsor, Connecticut, where special advantages for practice were opened to him. In 1823, his wife and one daughter dying within a short period, bereavement caused him to yield to the appeals of his father, and he transferred his residence to Ohio, where he remained to carve out a career equalled by few. In 1828 he was first elected to the Legislature, where he served three terms, and where his energies could always be relied upon in the cause of right and justice.

In 1837 he was appointed to the professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, and in the same year

he was appointed as assistant on the Geological Survey of Ohio, under the direction of Professor W. W. Mather.

In 1837 he also purchased a farm in Lakewood Township, just west of Cleveland, where he built the handsome residence to which he removed his family and his scientific collection, and where he dispensed the hospitality so congenial to his nature.

In 1841-42 he gave a course of lectures in the Willoughby Medical School, and in 1843 he resigned his professorship in the Ohio Medical School to become one of the founders of the Cleveland Medical College, in which he occupied the chair of Theory and Practice until 1864.

He was twice married—in 1815 to Miss Caroline Atwater of Wallingford, Connecticut, and in 1825 to Miss Hannah Toucey of Newtown, Connecticut, whom he outlived several years. Only one child reached maturity, the daughter of his first wife, who married Mr. Charles Pease. He died December 10, 1877.

This, briefly, is the account of a life about which volumes could be written, and in which every act told for the good of mankind. Possessed with a per-

sonal magnetism which drew around him men of all ranks and conditions, and which inspired in all an admiration and love as lasting as life itself, Dr. Kirtland may deservedly be given the credit of first instilling into the minds of the young men of the "Ark" the love for the beauties of nature which remained with them through all their varied careers.

Guided and encouraged by Dr. Kirtland, William Case early took up the study of ornithology as well as zoology and mineralogy, and he soon became ambitious to make a collection of the birds of North America. In order to accomplish this he learned the art of taxidermy, and attained rare skill in preserving and mounting specimens. Others soon became interested, and thus gradually there came to be associated with him a coterie of young men who permitted no opportunity for adding to the collection to escape them. Whenever a strange bird was found by any one in the surrounding section knowing of the tastes of these young men, it was brought in to be identified and placed in the collection. Those most actively engaged with William Case were Elisha Sterling, Captain Benjamin A. Stannard, and Rufus

K. Winslow. Of these, Captain Stannard ("Captain Ben," as he was familiarly known) was perhaps the ablest lieutenant, from the fact that he sailed the Lakes, both upper and lower. At one time, "before the canal" (an expression defining an epoch), he commanded the *Ramsay Crook*, which sailed the waters of Lake Superior. He explored both sides of the lake in the interest of the American Fur Company and the gratification of his love for natural history.

In this little building these young men labored for years at their cherished pursuit, and it was not a great while until the northerly room became too crowded for their collection. To accommodate the increase a wing was attached to the easterly, and the door which formerly gave exit to the back yard served as an entrance to this addition.

What would one not give to be able to take a backward peep into this little workshop to observe the methods employed and to listen to these youths discussing and criticising each other's work in language perhaps more forcible than eloquent?

The office thus gradually became "headquarters for loafers," as above irreverently expressed, and in the evening after tea it was customary for the young men



of the village—friends and associates of the laborers—to gather there to pass away the hours before bedtime. In the summer, before candle-light, athletic feats of various kinds engaged the time until dark, and then came cards, chess, discussion, and work on the inside. Even conundrums and riddles were not despised. The following riddle, entitled "Two Noted Characters of English Literature," is said to have originated in the "Ark," but by whom composed I have been unable to ascertain:

'Twas not on Alpine snow and ice,  
But on plain English ground;  
They sought a lofty enterprise,  
But lowly fate they found.  
They went not forth for earthly fame,  
But at stern duty's call;  
They were united in their aim,  
Divided in their fall.

The solution I leave to your astuteness.

It is interesting to know that the scientific work and workers in this place became in time of interest, and profit as well, to the famous American ornithologist and naturalist, John James Audubon. It is easy to imagine how he must have been the patron

saint, as it were, of these amateurs in a field in which he had few peers and no superior. The following letter in reply to one addressed to him by William Case, and which I quote in full, is the first of a series received in the period from 1844 to 1852 from the father and the son, V. G. Audubon.

New York Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1844—

DEAR SIR,—

I duly received your favour of Nov<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and reply to its contents forthwith.

You will see by the Prospectus on the other side, what our terms are for *The Quadrupeds of America*.— There are now 8 numbers published which we can forward to you provided you think fit to forward us your name as a Subscriber. I have a Synopsis of the Birds of America the price of which is Four Dollars, and this can also be sent to you provided you write to us to that effect.—

As you are a student in Zoology, I should like to keep up a correspondence with you if it be your pleasure.—

I remain very Sincerely

Your ob<sup>t</sup> Servant

JOHN J AUDUBON

This is the only letter from the elder Audubon, and it was written on a sheet of double note-paper, on the third page of which is the printed prospectus of the work on the Quadrupeds, reading as follows:

New York Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1841

Dear Sir,

I am very glad to hear of your  
success in your studies, and I hope  
you will continue to improve  
yourself, and that you will be  
able to give me a good account  
of your studies, when you  
come to New York. I am  
very glad to hear of your  
success in your studies, and I  
hope you will continue to  
improve yourself, and that you  
will be able to give me a  
good account of your studies,  
when you come to New York.  
I have a sympathy for the  
cause of which is your father,  
and I am very glad to hear  
of your success in your  
studies, and I hope you will  
continue to improve yourself,  
and that you will be able to  
give me a good account of  
your studies, when you come  
to New York.

I am very glad to hear of your  
success in your studies, and I  
hope you will continue to  
improve yourself, and that you  
will be able to give me a  
good account of your studies,  
when you come to New York.

I remain very sincerely,

Yours truly,

John F. Hutchinson



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THE  
VIVIPAROUS QUADRUPEDS  
OF  
NORTH AMERICA.

By JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, F. R. S., &C. &C., AND JOHN BACHMAN, D. D., &C. &C.

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PROSPECTUS.

THE plan adopted by the Authors for the publication of this work, in a great degree corresponds with that pursued by Mr. AUDUBON in his large work on the "BIRDS OF AMERICA," and it is believed that the "QUADRUPEDS OF NORTH AMERICA" will fully equal in beauty and interest the splendid Plates representing the Birds of our Country. Many of the species will be given of their natural size, and in most cases, several figures, with trees, plants, and occasionally views drawn from nature will appear on each plate.

The work will contain figures and descriptions of all the VIVIPAROUS QUADRUPEDS found in the United States, and from Texas, California, and the North-West Coast to the British possessions and Arctic regions of our Continent.

The Plates will be Lithographed in a style superior to any thing hitherto executed in this country, and will be printed on the best imperial folio paper, (22 by 28 inches,) and carefully coloured from Mr. AUDUBON's original drawings.

The Letter-press will contain all the information obtained by Mr. J. J. AUDUBON and the Rev. Dr. JOHN BACHMAN, from their own researches and from other sources that can be relied on, and the observations of other authors will be likewise introduced, where found useful or interesting. A portion of the letter-press will be published as soon as a sufficient number of plates have appeared to form a volume.

The work will be delivered to subscribers in numbers of five plates each, at intervals of about two months from the publication of each number, making five or six numbers annually, and the whole work will be completed in about thirty numbers.

The price of the work is ten dollars each number, payable on delivery.

Persons desiring to subscribe will please address JOHN J. AUDUBON, 77 William street, New York, or JOHN BACHMAN, D. D., Charleston, South Carolina.

The son, Victor G. Audubon, however, makes reply from time to time notifying William that parts of the work for which he had subscribed had been forwarded, and also to request specimens and information concerning the habits and animals of this section. As these letters indicate in a measure the approximate chronology of and the progress made in the great work on the Quadrupeds, and have not hitherto been published, they may prove of interest, although they tell but one side of the story.

New York Apl 26. 1845

DEAR SIR

Your favor of the 22<sup>d</sup> inst<sup>t</sup> has been rec<sup>d</sup>, and according to your request I send you to day by Express, all the N<sup>os</sup> of the "Quadrupeds of North America," that are published, viz: N<sup>os</sup> 1 to 11 inclusive.

I send you also a synopsis of the Birds. The Bill, according to your desire, I forward at foot \$115—and you will please make a remittance as soon as may be convenient.

The first vol of letter-press will be sent to you in about three months, also Title page for the vol of plates—

I note your observations respecting the Birds procured in your vicinity, and will communicate them to my Father, who is now out of town, when I see him.

With thanks for your patronage of our work—which I doubt not will please you, and with my Respects to Mr. Winslow

I am Respectfully,

Your obt serv't

To W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq,<sup>r</sup>

V. G. AUDUBON

W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq<sup>r</sup>

To J. J. Audubon Dr.

For the "Quadrupeds of North America"

Nos 1 to 11 inclusive @ 10 \$ Ea . . . . . \$110 —

Portfolio . . . . . 2 —

Synopsis of the "Birds of America" . . . . . 3

New York Apl 26. 1845. \$115.—

Philad<sup>a</sup> May 17, 1845

DEAR SIR

Your favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ins.<sup>t</sup>, with check for \$150. was duly rec<sup>d</sup>, and that sum placed to your Credit with thanks—

Please do as you like with the extra, plate of the Mink—I cannot imagine how it was put into the box—we regret it, but the error cannot now be corrected.

We shall be much gratified if you will favour us with any new or rare animals from Lake Superior or any part of the Country near you—If put in a jar or bottle, of whiskey, & sent us, we should receive them in tolerable order in the flesh—

Should you incur any expense in forwarding or procuring any thing of the sort for us, please note it, and we will repay you, with thanks besides—

My Father is now travelling in Pennsylvania and will not return home for some time, when he does reach New York again, he will have great pleasure in sending to you an original Water-colour sketch & autograph, for your copy of the "Birds of America"—

Very Respectfully

W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq.<sup>r</sup>

Your M<sup>t</sup> Obt Servt

Cleveland

V. G. AUDUBON

Ohio.

The request for the autograph indicates that the habits of the collector were established in Cleveland

before most of the members of the Rowfant Club were born.

New York Jan. 7: 9<sup>th</sup> 1846

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have the pleasure of writing to ask a favour which I think you can render us without much inconvenience. It is to obtain for us information respecting the habits of the *Porcupine* (*Hystrix Dortata*) in your part of the country. We would prefer your making enquiry of any respectable farmers or persons in the country near you, as to the mode in which the Porcupine breeds, the time, number of young, season when they are brought forth, whether the animal becomes *torpid* or dormant in winter, its food, how the hunters capture it, its mode of travelling from place to place and in short, all the knowledge you can get on the subject as well as any anecdotes that may be interesting and that can be relied on. This information I would be greatly pleased to receive *as soon as you can procure it* and you will please let us know if you incur any expense so that we may refund it to you. I take the liberty of also requesting the same kind of information, at a later period, that is to say, when convenient, in regard to the animals I will mention on the next page.

As soon as Spring opens I will send you several numbers of the "Quadrupeds" with which I hope you will be pleased.

We have not forgotten the drawing by my Father, you wrote for and I hope to send it to you with the box of numbers.

I hope we may soon hear from you and that you will favour us with the aid now solicited at your hands.

Believe me, Dear Sir, with wishes for your welfare and happiness for many New Years.

Your obliged Servant

V. G. AUDUBON

To William Case Esqr  
Cleveland. Ohio.



To W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq'  
Cleveland,  
Ohio—

List of animals of which we want information

American otter.

Raccoon.

Prarie Wolf (I believe you have this with you).

Common, Grey, (or white or black) wolf.

Any *moles*, *Shrews*, or *other small animals*

the accounts to be accompanied by their skins

(always with the skulls & leg bones preserved in them)

Opossum—

Pine Marten

Pennanti Marten or Fisher

Common black bear

Panther

All your Foxes—Red, Grey, Black, White &c

Banded Lynx (if you have it near you)

*Pteromys Sabrinus*—a *large* flying squirrel.

Small rats &c—Pouched Rats &c

in short a list with such notices as you can obtain  
of the Quadrupeds found in your section of the Country  
would be a great service to us.

If I am too bold in thus intruding on you—can  
you recommend us to anyone who will undertake  
this task?

Yours dear sir

Most Respectfully & truly

V. G. AUDUBON.

Any information about the *wolverine* if sent  
immediately would be useful.

New York Apl. 7. 1846.

MY DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure of sending you to day N<sup>os</sup> 14. 15 & 16, of the "Quadrupeds of North America," which I hope will reach you in good order, and be approved by you.

In our next box I hope to send you the Letter press for the first Vol.

With great Respect

I am dear sir

Your mo obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

V. G. AUDUBON

To

W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Cleveland,  
Ohio.

---

New York Augt 12. 1846

MY DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure of sending you herewith the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> numbers of the "Quadrupeds" and hope you will be pleased with them.

The first volume of the Letter press will go with our next package to you.

With best Respects

I am dear sir

Your obliged obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

V. G. AUDUBON

W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Cleveland  
Ohio.

New York dec 16. 1846

DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure to send you herewith the 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> Nos of the "Quadrupeds," and the first volume of the letter press— I hope you will be pleased with the numbers and with the volume.

If convenient to you please make us another remittance.

With very Best Regards & with thanks for your kindness in the matter of the "Porcupine" which you will see noticed in the volume,

I am dear Sir

Your Mo obt Serv<sup>t</sup>.

V. G. AUDUBON

To

William Case Esq  
Cleveland  
Ohio.

In vol. i, pp. 285–286, of "The Quadrupeds of North America" appears the acknowledgment to which reference is made in the foregoing letter: "The following information respecting the Porcupine was received by us from our kind friend William Case, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio: 'This animal was several years since (before my shooting days) very abundant in this region, the Connecticut Western Reserve; and no more than ten years ago one person killed seven or eight in the course of an afternoon's hunt for squirrels, within three or four miles of this city, while now probably one could not be found in a month. They are rapidly becoming extinct; the chief reason is probably the extreme hatred all hunters bear them on account of the injuries their quills inflict on their dogs. They do not hibernate, neither do I think they are particularly confined to their hollow trees during the coldest days in winter. Their movements from tree to tree in search of food (browse and bark) are rather slow and awkward; their track in the snow very much resembles that of a child (with the aid of imagination). They much delight in browsing and barking young and thrifty Elms and are generally plenty in Elm or Bass-wood swail.'"

New York May 18. 1847.

MY DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure of sending you herewith the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22 N<sup>os</sup> of the "Quadrupeds," which I hope will please you —

We presume the previous N<sup>os</sup> to N<sup>o</sup> 20 inclusive, have long since reached you, as well as, the first volume of the letter-press.

When you have the present, we will be obliged by your making us a remittance, and by hearing how you like the progress of the work and the first volume of descriptions.

Any information you can give us about any of the animals of the second volume will be of service to us, and we will thank you if you will bear the subject in mind and write some details for us if you can obtain them. You will see the quadrupeds of the 2<sup>d</sup> volume by looking through your plates from N<sup>o</sup> 11 to N<sup>o</sup> 20 inclusive. Please say whether you have received *Title pages & Tables of Contents* for the first & second volumes of plates.

Very Respectfully

William Case Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Cleveland.

Your obliged serv<sup>t</sup>  
V. G. AUDUBON

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New York July 19. 1848.

DEAR SIR

I have the pleasure of sending you the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> N<sup>os</sup> of the "Quadrupeds of North America," with which I hope you will be pleased.

We hope you are quite well, and should be pleased to hear from you. Have you ever obtained any information concerning the small animals of your district of country that you could forward to us for our next volumes of Letter press?

Very Truly yours

William Case Esq.<sup>r</sup>  
Cleveland,  
Ohio.

V. G. AUDUBON

The following is a printed circular letter, and if there were other letters between it and the foregoing they have been lost.

New-York July 12, 1852.

DEAR SIR,

In completing the third volume of the letter-press of the "Quadrupeds of North America," (original edition) a few animals not figured in that work will be described.

These will be figured, of a size suitable to bind in that volume, and will be carefully coloured.

Should you desire to have the plates of these species inserted in your copy, they will be charged to you when the volume is delivered, at twenty cents each plate.

In case you do not wish these extra plates, your third volume will be forwarded without them, and without charge to you, as was the case with the first and second volumes.

I beg to apologize for the delay which has occurred in the completion of the letter-press; it has been unavoidable.

The volume is now however in the hands of the printer and will be published during the present summer.

Your answer will oblige

Your most obedient Servant,

W<sup>m</sup> Case Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Cleveland  
Ohio.

V. G. AUDUBON

Picture in your mind, if you can, the delight which these busy young men must have experienced over the fact that their work was used and credited by the foremost naturalist of America.

Besides those above mentioned, they who afterwards became more prominently known as "Arkites" were Stoughton Bliss, David W. Cross, Edward A. Scovill (father of our fellow Rowfanter), Bushnell White, James J. Tracy, George A. Stanley, John Coon, Henry G. Abbey, and Dr. Alleyn Maynard.

To Stoughton Bliss is given the credit of suggesting the name by which the club was ever afterwards known. Coming in one day with a companion and casting his eyes over the specimens which occupied every nook and cranny, he remarked that the place reminded him of Noah's Ark. Upon being asked to explain he replied, "Because it contains two of every kind." The name was deemed so appropriate that it was adopted. "Three of a kind" was probably not an unknown expression there, although I have no data to confirm the suspicion that the great American game was in favor during the early years of the club's existence. Given, however, a certain number of facts, and unknown truths may be deduced. There were young men and there were cards.

William Case was also interested in every thing pertaining to the fine arts, for in his letters to his brother and Elisha Sterling there are frequent requests to

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purchase prints and reproductions of various kinds. It was with him a dream, which was but partially realized during his lifetime, that his native city should some day enjoy the benefits derived from libraries, museums, and schools of advanced learning. Judge James D. Cleveland, in one of the numerous sketches he was fond of writing about Clevelanders, says: "In 1844 I met William Case in Philadelphia and spent the day with him in the splendid collection of Natural History in the galleries of the Franklin Institute. You can easily appreciate the delight he evinced as he examined the grand exhibit in a field in which he was enthusiastic. 'One day,' said he, 'Cleveland must have something like this. We will have an Academy of Natural Science and a Library Association which shall be grand and worthy of the city. Cleveland is a chrysalis now; one of these days she shall be a butterfly.'" Continuing, the Judge writes: "He began in 1859 to erect a building which should accommodate the Young Men's Library Association and the Kirtland Society of Natural History. He did not live to finish the building, but his wishes were carried out by his brother."

I have given these extracts in passing for the reason that both of the institutions mentioned were doubtlessly discussed and planned in the "Ark" years before the fruition. The "Ark" collection of birds and specimens became the nucleus of the Kirtland Society, which had a wide renown in its day, and which, owing to lack of financial support, was finally broken up, part given to Adelbert College and part to Case School of Applied Science. The Library Association in 1876 became the institution with which you are all familiar and which has just now entered new quarters.

William's fondness for art caused him to engage a local artist by the name of Stevenson to paint him a copy of one of the noted pictures in which was the figure of a lady slightly "overexposed" on one side. This he hung on the walls of the "Ark." One day his mother visited that sacred chamber, and she quickly discovered what she believed was a menace to the morals of her first-born. She manifested her disapproval by sticking a wafer over the offending *mamma*.

In April, 1856, part of Lot 63—199 feet on the Public Square by 105 feet deep—was sold for



\$30,000 to the United States Government for the site of the present Government Building. As this included the ground occupied by the "Ark," the latter was moved to the easterly and set up fronting on Rockwell Street on part of the ground now occupied by the Case Building.

The following parody, ascribed to Leonard Case, Jr., and in lamentation over this first disturbance of the quiet waters which had for so many years surrounded the "Ark," reflects whimsically, though perhaps not poetically, the condition of mind in which the "Arkites" found themselves under Uncle Sam's unsympathetic hand.

#### WAILINGS.

Should you ask me whence these whispers,  
Strange, mysterious, troubled whispers,  
Floating on the breeze of springtime  
In this glorious, happy sunshine,  
Jarring 'gainst the joyous music  
Of our feathered friends, the songsters,  
Making dismal happy places,  
Grating on the ear of quiet —  
I would answer, I would tell you,  
'Tis the wailing of the hopeless,  
'Tis the sorrowing of the lost,  
Breathing words of deepest anguish,  
Muttering only of the past.

Should your ears be long and heavy,  
And further should you question me,  
I would answer, I would tell you,  
'Tis the deep and fearful wailing  
Welling up from hearts despairing,  
In their waking and their slumbers  
Groaning ever, in sad numbers:  
"Alack-a-day! We're of the past,  
"Our wigwam fires can't longer last,  
"Our history's written 'on the wall.'  
"Our pipe of peace grows black and short  
"(Preferred to any other sort),  
"No more to grace our gatherings;  
"Cards which two-score years of service  
"In cribbage, high-low-jack, and euchre  
"Have blackened, yet endeared: adieu!  
"No more learned disquisitions  
"On the state, the times, and people;  
"No more jokes, those tough old jokes,  
"Oft repeated, often laughed at,  
"Prized for their age and good they've done;  
"No more stories, oft told stories,—  
"How we prized them, how we told them,  
"Always adding, ne'er abating,  
"Drawing bows still stronger, strongest  
"Drawing *cross*-bows always longest!  
"We've been favored and enlightened;  
"Long we've met, and fondly listened  
"To the words of wisdom falling  
"From each others' lips o'erflowing,  
"And appreciating fully  
"All our wondrous privileges.  
"But, dear friends, we're to be scattered

"In a few short moons, to wander  
" 'Mong the barbarous sons of men  
"Who will not our ways consider,  
"For they cannot understand them.  
"But dearer, fonder, fondest yet,  
"The place where we have always met;  
"The easy swing and quiet air  
"Pervading everything that's there,  
"From broken chair to 'catch a green un,'  
"To fireplace—there's seldom seen one  
"Like it, for the air of quiet  
"Reposing 'mong its three-months' ashes,  
"Round which our circle blazed in flashes  
"Of quiet wit, when chance to hit  
"Some brother in a tender spot,  
"Exposing traits elsewhere known not.  
"Must we leave thee, Paradise,  
"Where we're fixed as snug as mice,  
"And yield to 'Uncle Sam,' the shark,  
"Who wants our home, our all, our ARK?  
"Wahona-win, Wahona-win,\*  
"There's no knowing; no, no knowing;  
"'Tis but a leap, deep in the dark,  
"So fare-ye-well, thou dear 'old Ark.'"

\* Refer to vocabulary of Hiawatha.

When the excavation for the Case Building was commenced in 1859 or 1860 the "Ark" was again moved, this time to the easterly side of Wood Street, near the corner of Rockwell Street, and set up with its front again facing westerly, on the site of the

present temporary Public Library Building. Here it remained for ten or twelve years until the early seventies, when the erection of the City Hall Building was commenced. Then the little building which had been in existence for forty-five years was demolished and nothing preserved from it excepting a few oak timbers, out of which a couple of tables were made and placed with the other furniture in the new quarters in the Case Building, in which, when completed, Leonard Case, Jr., had reserved a room for the "Ark." This room was in the southeasterly part of the building on the third floor near the corner.

In the meantime, besides the regular "Arkites," others became habitués of the club, most of whom were men of tastes similar to those of the older frequenters. These finally became known as "outside members." The names of these as given by Major John Coon were as follows: Charles L. Rhodes, Judge Seneca O. Griswold, Captain Levi T. Scofield, Rodney Gale, H. M. Chapin, W. H. Scholl, Jabez W. Fitch, O. C. Scovill, Dr. John S. Newberry, Edward S. Flint, John Shelley, W. A. Fisher, Frank Ford, Captain P. G. Watmough, Oliver Hazard Perry, Pro-



*The "Ark."*



fessor Hamilton Smith, William D. Cushing, John Wills, Mr. Van Voest, John Williamson, James Williamson, Allen Smith, Jr., Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, John F. Warner, O. N. Skeels, Hon. Emory D. Potter of Toledo, Fayette Brown, Steven G. Remington, Henry C. Gaylord, Levi Kerr, L. Austin, John A. Wheeler, and George H. Russell. In addition to these another authority gives the following names: General John Pierce of Denver, Colonel E. A. Brown, John Proudfoot, "house-painter and poet," T. Kelley Bolton, James Fitch, Mr. Pettibone, William Rattle, Major-General James A. Potter, U.S.A., T. N. Bond, Mr. Stevenson, Basil Spangler, and General James Barnett.

The new quarters in the Case Building proved to be too small for the crowds which gathered when the number of "outside members," so-called, increased. The chief trouble arose from the various brands of tobacco used by the members, it being one of the customs that each should furnish his own. There was no objection made if a member gave a cigar or a pipe of tobacco to another, but the practice was not in favor, and with many smoking the room could not be ventilated to meet the demands of weaker lungs. To remedy this the cor-

ner room, which was larger than the first, was added to the quarters. From this time the members, in referring to the club to each other, usually spoke of it as "Nineteen," that being the number of the corner room. The scientific work which had engaged the attention of the older members for so many years was practically abandoned and the rooms were used mainly for amusement. The library was retained, however, and new furniture made to order had been added. I visited the rooms for the first and only time about fifteen years ago, and the furnishings appeared much worn and dilapidated. The tops of the tables showed the abrasion due to innumerable "*antes*," and the cane-bottomed chairs exhibited manifold signs of agitation due to the uncertainty as to what the opponent held in his "hand." The evidence was no longer circumstantial, however, for "penny-ante," with a ten-cent limit, was then a nightly diversion. I remember the late Levi Kerr coming into his office one morning evidently much pleased with himself, jingling a few coins in his hand, amounting in all to forty-three cents, which he boasted of having won the evening before "up in Nineteen."



Previous to his death the younger Leonard Case made a life-lease of the two rooms thus occupied, together with their contents, to fifteen members, and upon the death of the last surviving lessee the use of the rooms was to revert to the Library Association. The names of the lessees were as follows: Charles L. Rhodes, S. O. Griswold, D. W. Cross, H. M. Chapin, E. A. Scovill, W. H. Scholl, J. J. Tracy, Stoughton Bliss, Levi T. Scofield, Rodney Gale, Jabez W. Fitch, Henry G. Abbey, Bushnell White, B. A. Stannard, and John Coon. All of these gentlemen are now dead excepting J. J. Tracy, L. T. Scofield, and John Coon.

There was a member of the "Ark" that should not be forgotten. Humble he was, but ever faithful. This was "Old Guide," William Case's favorite pointer dog. The fondness of the master for the dog and the faithfulness of the dog to the master tell best the story of the attachment between them. Writing home, when absent on business trips, his letters would contain affectionate inquiries about his dog, not doubting for a moment that Guide's regrets were as great as his own over the enforced separation.

One warm spring afternoon when the little building stood fronting the Square and several of the members were lounging on the sidewalk, Leonard Case observed his brother's purse protruding slightly from the trousers pocket. He quietly abstracted it and passed it to his neighbor, who in turn passed it on, and finally it was hidden beneath some litter. Suddenly Leonard remarked that he needed some money to do some marketing, but was "broke." Several offered to lend it to him, but William rather sharply told them to put up their money as he had plenty for the purpose. "Here!" he exclaimed, as he put his hand into his pocket for his purse. Discovering his loss he immediately suspected a joke. Calling to Guide, the dog was made to understand by signs that something was lost, and he was given the scent by putting his nose into the pocket. Guide, of course, quickly recovered the purse and returned it to its owner.

When Guide grew old he became paralyzed in his hinder parts, and it was pathetic in the extreme to watch his efforts to move from place to place. He was too heavy to carry, so to aid him they





*An Evening*



*at the "Ark."*



would grasp a hind leg in each hand, making a sort of canine wheelbarrow of him, and let him to trot off on his fore legs.

One of the treasures of the "Ark" in its later years was a group portrait of the original "Arkites." In 1858 or 1859 a German artist named Julius Gollman was employed to paint the portrait representing the members in characteristic attitudes, standing or sitting in the old "Ark" room. The artist succeeded in creating an admirably realistic picture, and those who knew the men may, aside from the features, easily recognize each by the attitude in which he is portrayed. To the extreme left stands Dr. Sterling, just as he may often have been seen on the street while having his boots polished. Next sits "Captain Ben" discussing with William Case the peculiarities or merits of a gun. Behind them is Mr. Tracy giving way to a natural impulse in poking the fire. Against the further corner of the chimney stands Dr. Maynard, refined and dignified, watching a game of chess between Bushnell White and Leonard Case. At the large round table sit David W. Cross, E. A. Scovill, R. K. Winslow, and John Coon holding a *post-mortem* over a game of

whist. The story goes that Cross was the culprit who had violated some one of the rules of the game, and Scovill was giving him the law upon the point from Hoyle. Behind the card-players, stroking his beard, the pride of his heart, stands George A. Stanley, with Mr. Abbey at his side in the act of lighting a cigar. In the foreground sits the genial Colonel Bliss smoking, just as he may have been seen in front of the old Kennard House any pleasant forenoon in his later life. To those who knew them the portrait tells a story of by-gone days more charming than pen can picture. The dogs, the litter of the room, the wood, the axe, all speak and deny the renovating hand of the gentler sex, and recall the custom of the place that the room should not be swept oftener than once a year. One of the old members writes: "They forgot to sweep one year, and the ashes littered the floor from one end of the room to the other, and the cobwebs, black with dirt, hung from the ceiling to the floor, so that in moving about one brushed against them." Those standing proclaim their tardiness, it being the practice to remain seated no matter who might enter. Be he old or young, it was insisted that he



find his own seat or remain without. Of the dogs, one belonged to "Captain Ben" and the other to William Case. Gollman was paid four hundred dollars for painting the picture, and the few photographs taken of it bear his copyright. The copy exhibited here to-night is, I believe, the one which belonged to William Case. It is a pleasure to state that the famous picture has been cleaned, glazed, and deposited with the Western Reserve Historical Society by Mr. Levi T. Scofield. The pencil drawing is one made by William Case, and shows the rear of the original building before the wing was attached.

A few anecdotes may not be out of place.

The late Mrs. Axtell of Painesville was fond of telling the following story about her cousin William Case. One evening in the late autumn he wished to use the tables for something connected with the scientific work, but found White and Bond at the small table engaged in a game of chess, and Scovill, Bliss, Cross, and Leonard Case absorbed in a game of whist at the large round table, all oblivious to him and everything else but their games. With characteristic politeness he requested the players

to yield the tables to him and "Captain Ben" for a few moments, but not one of them moved. He repeated his request, and still he was ignored. His temper was somewhat aroused, and as he passed out of the door he said sarcastically: "Good evening, gentlemen. I will wait until you are through." He had not been absent long before the smell of smoke aroused the players, and soon the room was filled with it to suffocation in spite of their efforts to create a draft for it up the chimney. Pretty soon, however, William's smiling face was seen at one of the windows. There was a rush in his direction, but he made good his escape, and "Captain Ben" climbed to the roof, removed a board that had been placed over the chimney, the room was aired, and the games were continued.

"Dave" Cross was always ready to wield the quill, that the fictions of his brain might not be lost to humanity, and his tongue would match with any in tales of marvellous adventure in forest and stream. None but the largest deer or bear escaped with punctured hide, and none but the heaviest trout snapped his hook from the line. He drew the *Cross*-bow with such monopolizing persistency that

his fellow "Arkites" determined to perpetuate his fame, that we of to-day might know what manner of man with whom fate had so kindly associated them. Gollman, he who painted the famous picture, was engaged for the task of producing in color the story of the mighty hunter killing a bear which, upon closer examination, proved to be only a hog. No one enjoyed the caricature more than did Cross himself, and to him must be given the credit of being the only member of the "Ark" to place on permanent record anything concerning its history. In his articles in the Magazine of Western History may be found a short sketch largely quoted from a newspaper article by Mr. George Hoyt.

I have known personally but few of the members of the "Ark."

Dr. Elisha Sterling was a naturalist of unusual ability. He began his professional studies in the old Erie Street Medical College under Dr. Ackley—the former owner of the Rowfant Club House—and finished them in Paris, where he spent several years. In his letters to the "Squire," as he was fond of addressing his friend William Case, there are many racy anecdotes of Parisian experiences. One after-

noon a few years ago the door of William Case's former office, No. 9 Rockwell Street, was darkened, and upon looking up I discovered Dr. Sterling standing there looking around the room. I invited him in, but he said, "No; I simply wished to look at an old friend." The sadness in his voice impressed me, and I insisted and finally prevailed, and he came in and took a seat. He talked long and affectionately about his dead friend, but not a word about the "Ark" could I draw out of him.

Mr. Rufus K. Winslow was an ardent student of ornithology, and his skill and taste in taxidermy were unrivalled. He was one of the most active promoters and officers of the Kirtland Society, and his collection of thrushes was at one time considered the finest in the United States. He was a peculiar man, and very profane. His manner at the moment was a correct barometer of the state of his business. When matters were prosperous he would walk with elastic tread, head erect, and his hat set far back. When business was dull or matters going wrong the hat would be down over his eyes, his head bent forward, and woe betide the friend that accosted him. My earliest recollection of him was in hear-

ing him swear at the telephone before he had even taken the receiver from the hook. One day in 1882 or 1883, while in the office of the late Judge Ranney, in answering the telephone I was unable to distinguish the name of the one who called, and I asked the second time who it was. The reply came back in an angry tone, "It's Winslow," and I informed him that I didn't care if it were, he shouldn't speak to me in such a tone. Whereas he had formerly ignored me, thereafter he was genial and pleasant. Frequently I would overtake him in walking down Euclid Avenue, and had many friendly chats with him about his old friends of the "Ark." When he became too feeble to walk he would drive down in his high-seated open carriage, and one morning he drove up to the curb and called to me to come and drive down town with him. As I was walking for the exercise I thanked him and declined, whereupon he yelled to the driver, "Go on!" In his estimation I ceased to exist after that morning.

Mr. Tracy is one of the two of the original members of the "Ark" now living. He is still hale and hearty, and his vigor might be the envy of

much younger men. When his history shall have been written it will be found that he was connected with many of the city's most active business enterprises. His gifts to charities have been many, and for those who know him well there exists no warmer heart, no truer friend.

Mr. Abbey was another of the "Arkites" with whom I had personal acquaintance through some five or six years, and his loyalty to his friend and employer Leonard Case was the characteristic that would impress one the most. At one time he was Clerk of the Michigan Legislature, and later he contracted the gold fever which took him to California, whence he returned with more experience than gold. In the sixties he became Mr. Case's confidential friend and adviser, in which capacity he remained until Mr. Case's death in 1880. In 1876, by deed he was made trustee of the property which eventually became the endowment of Case School. He died June 18, 1877.

With the recent appropriation of the Case Building by the United States Government for an addition to the Post Office site, the "Ark" passed out of existence as was intended by its founders, and it

is to be hoped that some one may eventually take up the task of writing its history in a manner worthy of the institution and the men who created it.

As a suggestion, would it not be appropriate for Rowfanters some day to dedicate one corner of their home to the memory of the institution which has impressed itself upon the minds of all who strive for higher ideals?

I have drawn freely from the newspaper articles to which reference has been made, and if William Case's name has been mentioned more frequently than others or than may be seemly, it is because, as one authority states it, "he was the founder, the master, and the soul of the 'Ark.'"

*Key to Large Picture "An Evening at the 'Ark.'"*

- 1 Elisha Sterling.
- 2 Benjamin A. Stannard.
- 3 James J. Tracy.
- 4 Alleyn Maynard.
- 5 William Case.
- 6 Bushnell White.
- 7 David W. Cross.
- 8 Leonard Case.
- 9 Edward A. Scovill.
- 10 George A. Stanley.
- 11 Stoughton Bliss.
- 12 Rufus K. Winslow.
- 13 John Coon.
- 14 Henry G. Abbey.





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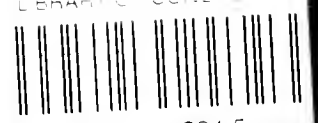












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